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S. R. A.—Fed. Hort. Bd. 19. Issued September 23, 1915.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

FEDERAL HORTICULTURAL BOARD.

C. L. Marlatt, *Chairman;* W. A. Orton; George B. Sudworth; W. D. Hunter; Karl F. Kellerman. R. C. Althouse, *Secretary.*

SERVICE AND REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

AUGUST, 1915.

SUMMARIZED REPORT OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE ON WHITE-PINE BLISTER RUST.[1]

At the request of the State forester of New York, an informal conference was held on July 20 between the Federal Horticultural Board and various State foresters and State nursery inspectors to discuss the present white-pine blister rust situation in the United States.

The conference was not for the purpose of considering the establishment of a quarantine, but to hear the latest reports on the distribution of the disease and to discuss methods of concerted action by the States and the United States Department of Agriculture in the eradication of this disease.

Foreign shipments of five-needle pines have already been forbidden entrance to this country by national quarantines Nos. 1 and 7, effective in 1912 and 1913, respectively. We are concerned at present not with the entrance of the disease on foreign stock, but with the menace of its spread from infected importations made prior to the passage of the quarantine law.

In the United States the eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) is at present the only one affected. In Europe, however, the disease attacks other five-needle pines, and consequently the five-needle pines of our Western States are endangered.

It developed at the conference that at least 80 infected lots of imported white pine have, during the past five years, been located in the United States and Canada. These infections have been found in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Kansas, with one in the Province of Ontario, in Canada. Most of these 80 or more infections have been eradicated, but from eight of them outbreaks of the disease in native pines have occurred. The largest of these outbreaks has recently developed along the Niagara River in Ontario, fortunately, however, in an isolated region.

The development of the disease is slow on the pine. Infections on the main trunk of seedlings take place in the nurseries, but visible swellings may not develop for years, and have still appeared in this country eight years after the time of infection, and in Europe they have been known to appear after 15 to 20

[1] See Notice of Conference issued July 9, 1915, S. R. A., Fed. Hort. Bd. 18, July, 1915, page 54.

years. Trees with the trunk infection never grow large enough to become valuable for lumber.

The disease spreads from the pine galls to the leaves of currant bushes, or, more rarely, of gooseberries, where a new generation of spores develops in from 10 to 14 days. These spread the disease over the wild or cultivated currants in the vicinity. From the currants the rust goes back to the pines, attacking the trunks of young trees, as described above, or the twigs of old ones. The twig form of the disease does little harm to the tree, but may act as a center of infection for currants.

The chief menace of this disease to the United States lies in the chance that it may establish itself in our five-needle pine forests. Not only does it endanger the eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), which is being extensively planted as a forest tree in New England, but it may spread to the Pacific coast forests of western white pine (*Pinus monticolá*) and sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), which are very extensive and of great value. These western forests are abundantly supplied with many species of the currants and gooseberries necessary for the propagation of the disease.

For several years the States of New York, Massachusetts, and Vermont have been taking aggressive measures to eradicate this disease, and they are meeting with success. Nearly all of the visibly infected trees have been destroyed, and in New York all the trees have been destroyed in the infected plantations whether or not they have shown the visible signs of the disease. In this State there has been developed a system of compensation by the State for the removal of suspicious, but not visibly infected, trees. This compensation has taken two forms: (1) The supplying of healthy white-pine nursery stock by the State in lieu of the suspicious stock destroyed, and (2) direct monetary compensation by the State.

Unfortunately, some of the other States having dangerous infections have not realized the importance of this disease and have not been so active in their efforts to destroy it.

In the light of the serious nature of this disease and the menace which it offers to large industries in this country, the Federal Horticultural Board and the Bureau of Plant Industry have decided to cooperate in leading an eradication campaign against it. An effort is being made to secure an energetic cooperation between the State and National authorities in blotting out the white-pine blister rust while such a result is yet possible.

CIRCULAR LETTER ON METHOD OF REPORTING SHORT SHIPMENTS OF IMPORTED COTTON.

Dear Sirs: Referring to that portion of my letter of July 24, 1915 (HB 11–15), which suggests that the individual bale numbers be furnished in the case of cotton which has been short-shipped, in view of a report just received from our inspector to the effect that the bale number appears only on the top of the bale and is frequently obliterated, and in view of representations made by certain large importers of cotton that it is practically impossible to comply with our suggestion, the board has decided that such shipments of cotton may hereafter be reported in the usual manner—i. e., giving the total number of bales, the lot or type number and distinguishing marks, and the range of numbers covered by that particular lot, and making reference to the fact that the cotton was short-shipped, giving the name of the vessel.

Yours very truly,

R. C. Althouse,
Secretary of Board.

August 5, 1915.

The following press notice was issued from the Office of Information, United States Department of Agriculture, August 5, 1915:

NO QUARANTINE OF CHESTNUT NURSERY STOCK.[1]

Following a public hearing on the subject, the Federal Horticultural Board has determined not to quarantine chestnut nursery stock for the purpose of preventing the distribution of the chestnut-bark disease. The board announced that the disease spreads slowly, and opportunity has already existed for several years for the distribution of this disease in small quantities to areas where extensive new plantings of chestnut are being inaugurated. Recommendation is made that plantings of chestnut stock be carefully inspected for the presence of the disease.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPORTATION OF COTTON LINT INTO THE UNITED STATES.

Under authority conferred by the Plant Quarantine Act of August 20, 1912 (37 Stat. 315), it is ordered that regulation 6 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Cotton Lint into the United States, dated April 27, 1915, modified by amendment No. 2 to these rules and regulations, be, and the same is hereby, further amended, effective on and after February 1, 1916, so as to read as follows:

Regulation 6. Condition of entry from countries which do not maintain cotton inspection and certification.

Cotton imported from countries which do not maintain cotton inspection and certification will be delivered to the permittee for disinfection, upon the filing with the collector of customs of a bond in the amount of $5,000, or in an amount equal to the invoice value of the cotton if such value be less than $5,000, with approved sureties, conditioned upon disinfection of the cotton, under the supervision of an inspector of the Department of Agriculture, and upon the redelivery of the cotton to the collector of customs within 40 days from arrival of the same at the port of entry. The cotton shall not be removed from the port of entry, nor shall any bale or other container of the cotton be broken or opened for sampling, until a written notice is given to the collector of customs by an inspector of the Department of Agriculture that the cotton has been properly disinfected.

Done at Washington this 26th day of August, 1915.

Witness my hand and the seal of the United States Department of Agriculture.

C. F. MARVIN,
Acting Secretary of Agriculture.

[SEAL.]

ORDER LIFTING DOMESTIC POTATO QUARANTINE.

(Effective on and after Sept. 1, 1915.)

The fact has been determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, as the result of investigations and surveys, that the disease known as powdery scab of potato (*Spongospora subterranea*) is largely limited by soil conditions; that the soil conditions of the southern and central States are such that the spread of the disease to those States is improbable, and that the disease now exists to a slight extent only outside of the States of Maine and New York, which

[1] See Notice of Public Hearing, issued Apr. 21, 1915, S. R. A., Fed. Hort. Bd. 15, April, 1915, p. 25, and Report on the Chestnut-Bark Disease Hearing, issued May 29, 1915, S. R. A., Fed Hort. Bd. 16, May, 1915, p. 39.

were quarantined by Notice of Quarantine No. 14, dated April 25, 1914, and Notice of Quarantine No. 18, dated November 14, 1914.

Now, therefore, I, C. F. Marvin, Acting Secretary of Agriculture, under the authority conferred by the act approved August 20, 1912 (37 Stat. L., p. 315), known as "The Plant Quarantine Act," do hereby remove and revoke the quarantine placed by said notices of quarantine Nos. 14 and 18 upon the States of Maine and New York, and do also hereby revoke the rules and regulations governing the interstate movement of potatoes from areas quarantined for powdery scab, dated June 26, 1914, and all amendments thereto, such revocations to take effect on September 1, 1915.

Done at Washington this 30th day of August, 1915.

Witness my hand and the seal of the United States Department of Agriculture.

C. F. MARVIN,
Acting Secretary of Agriculture.

[SEAL.]

CONVICTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE PLANT QUARANTINE ACT.

The following convictions for violations of the Plant Quarantine Act were reported to the board during the month of August, 1915:

In the case of the United States *v.* W. E. A. Legg & Co., Boston, Mass., for violating the gipsy moth and brown-tail moth quarantine in the interstate shipment of Christmas greens from the area quarantined for the gipsy moth to points outside of that area, the defendant pleaded nolo contendere, and was fined $25.

In the case of the United States *v.* Fred James, Boscawen, N. H., for violating the gipsy moth and brown-tail moth quarantine in shipping lumber in interstate trade without inspection and certification by a Federal officer, the defendant pleaded nolo contendere, and was fined $25.

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